

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

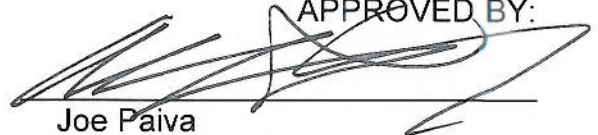
VA IQ Task number: 7221585
(6 April 2012/5:00pm)

VLER Transition Plan

The attached information paper provides for the plan for transitioning the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) Enterprise Program Management Office (EPMO) into a permanent VLER Deputy Chief Information Officer (DCIO) Office. The DCIO VLER will be charged with executing Title 40 Clinger-Cohen Act mandated information management responsibilities of the CIO, driving efficient, effective and secure standards-based information sharing and management required for the VA and its partners to proactively deliver the full continuum of services and benefits to Veterans and their beneficiaries. The DCIO VLER will be responsible for leading information management and information sharing efforts across the VA, establishing and managing an enterprise-wide VLER governance structure, and identifying and eliminating business and technical barriers to information sharing and management.

ACTION REQUIRED: None; informational.

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Paiva', is written over a horizontal line.

Joe Paiva
Executive Director,
Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record

INFO PAPER

VLER Transition Plan

Purpose

To establish a Deputy Chief Information Officer (DCIO) with the primary role and responsibility of executing Clinger-Cohen Act mandated Information Management (IM) responsibilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Chief Information Officer (CIO).

Background

The Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 establishes the position of agency chief information officer (CIO) with responsibility for enterprise-wide IM.¹ GAO has identified a need for federal CIOs to take a more active role in execution of enterprise IM as required by law.²

The VA CIO currently has two Deputy Assistant Secretaries (DAS) and three DCIOs whose primary areas of focus are Information Assurance (IA), Information Technology Resource Management (ITRM), and Information Technology (IT). There is no DAS or DCIO dedicated to execution of the CIO's IM responsibilities. However, during the past 12 months, in order to realize the vision of the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER), the VLER Enterprise Program Management Office (EPMO) has become the nexus for information sharing and information management across the VA.

VLER Overview and Responsibilities

The VLER Major Initiative is led by Executive Director (ED) VLER who reports to the Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology (AS(OIT)/CIO). ED VLER leads Veteran-focused information sharing and management efforts across the VA (among Administrations and various internal VA systems) and with external agencies. To accomplish this, ED VLER engages stakeholders, builds consensus, identifies barriers to information transparency, proposes solutions and synchronizes similar information management and sharing capabilities, requirements, and actions. ED VLER, as the VLER Business Owner, is responsible for leading the collaborative development and enforcement of business and technical requirements, plans and policies related to VLER information sharing and management. ED VLER staff facilitate, broker, and coordinate VLER-related activities across VA to accomplish VLER goals.

VLER Transition Plan

The VLER EPMO will transition into a permanent DCIO VLER Office September 30, 2012. Several courses of action (COA) for VLER transition were considered:

COA		Pros	Cons
1	Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Takes no effort to implement• No resistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overlapping R&R and lack of positional authority make long term success unlikely• No long term commitment to VLER
2	DCIO VLER (Business Execution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clearly aligns with statutory CCA and OMB policy requirements• Close relationship with PD, but without overlapping R&R	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Possible cultural resistance• Possible perception as an IT organization vs. a Business organization

¹ 40 U.S.C. § 11315; see also 44 U.S.C. § 3506

² GAO-11-634, "Federal Chief Information Officers"

COA		Pros	Cons
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to drive enterprise level policy, execution & resources related to information sharing and management from within OIT • Institutionalizes roles and responsibilities 	
3	DAS(OIT) VLER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforces "IM"/Business versus IT role • Clearly aligns with statutory CCA and OMB policy requirements • Close relationship with PD, but without overlapping R&R • Ability to drive enterprise level policy, execution & resources related to information sharing and management from within OIT • Institutionalizes roles and responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible cultural resistance • May require Congressional approval
4	DCTO VLER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalize innovation • Ability to establish formal process for "rapid prototyping" and moving innovation into mainstream development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could easily lose IM focus and become another IT organization
5	Fold information sharing efforts under other organizations and stand down office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Least cost • Little resistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-compliance with statutes regarding CIOs responsibilities to information management • Lack of executive level driver for VLER decreases chance of success

Way Forward: Establish a permanent DCIO VLER Office. The DCIO VLER will be responsible for optimizing information sharing and management services and practices, establishing and managing enterprise wide VLER governance structure, and identifying and eliminating business (e.g., policies, processes and structures) and technical barriers to information sharing. As the VLER business owner, the DCIO VLER will provide requirements and information sharing and information policy to VA stakeholders, and synchronize and coordinate VLER related activities across VA and with external partners. The DCIO VLER will continue to serve as the MI lead for the VLER major initiative in FY13. **This option will institutionalize VLER across the Department and best implements the intent of Clinger-Cohen within VA.**